

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 316.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1883.

SIX DOLLARS  
PER QUARTER.

## Intimations.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

### PIANOS

ARE GREATLY INJURED, ESPECIALLY IN A TRYING CLIMATE LIKE THAT OF HONGKONG, by allowing them to drop out of Tune; the great Tension caused by tightening up the strings again being exceedingly trying.

A Good Instrument will probably last Twice as long in Hongkong, if kept constantly in Tune.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. having a thoroughly competent Tuner from BROADWOOD & SONS, keep Pianos in Tune and REPAIR at a MODERATE CHARGE.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.  
Hongkong, 13th January, 1883. [296]

## Insurances.

### GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, EQUAL \$833,333.33-  
RESERVE FUND.....\$70,858.27.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.  
LEE SING, Esq., | LEE YAT LAU, Esq.,  
LO YEOK MOON, Esq., | CHU CHIK NUNG, Esq.,  
MANAGER.—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS ON GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.  
Hongkong, 1st September, 1882. [601]

YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000.00  
PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 230,000.00  
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 290,553.95

TOTAL CAPITAL and  
ACCUMULATIONS, 8th  
May, 1882.....Tls. 940,553.95

DIRECTORS.  
H. DE C. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.  
J. H. PINCKVOSS, Esq., | W. MEYERINK, Esq.,  
A. J. M. INVERARITY, Esq., | G. H. WHEELER, Esq.,

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.  
Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.  
Messrs. BARRING BROTHERS & Co.,  
Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent,  
68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICIES granted on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.  
Subject to a charge of 12 per cent. for Interest on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually distributed among all Contributors of Business (whether Shareholders or not) in proportion to the premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 23rd January, 1883. [83]

THE Undersigned have been appointed AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD of UNDERWRITERS.  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.  
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

RECORD of AMERICAN and FOREIGN SHIPPING.  
Agents,  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.  
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [457]

### NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.)

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN  
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,  
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.  
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [81]

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF EDINBURGH & LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

CAPITAL.....£6,000,000 STERLING.  
INVESTED FUNDS.....£3,000,000.  
ANNUAL INCOME.....£700,000.

The Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company and are prepared to GRANT FIRE INSURANCES at CURRENT RATES.

HESSE & Co.  
Hongkong, 1st January, 1882. [40]

J. M. GUEDES.

HOUSE AND LAND BROKER, AUCTIONEER AND COMMISSION AGENT.  
No. 33, WELLINGTON STREET, HONGKONG.  
Hongkong, 23rd January, 1882. [5]

## Notices of Firms.

### NOTICE.

I HAVE This Day PURCHASED the GOODWILL and STOCK-IN-TRADE of V. P. MOORE'S HAIR DRESSING SALOON, Hongkong Hotel. I trust to meet the same Patronage, so Liberally Bestowed upon my Predecessor.

J. P. MARMADE.  
Hongkong, 25th January, 1883.

IN reference to the above the Undersigned having disposed of his BUSINESS, takes this opportunity of returning his sincere thanks for the Liberal support he has received during the time he has been in Business.

V. P. MOORE.  
Hongkong, 25th January, 1883. [94]

### NOTICE.

I have THIS DAY PURCHASED under a Bill of Sale, the GOODWILL, PLANT, MACHINERY, STOCK-IN-TRADE and FIXTURES of the FIRM of DE SOUZA & Co., PRINTERS, &c., of HONGKONG; and beg to intimate that I will carry on the BUSINESS under the same Name.

By strict attention, First-class Workmanship, and Moderate Charges I hope to merit the Patronage of the Hongkong public.

F. D. GUEDES.  
Hongkong, 13th December, 1882. [20]

### NOTICE.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

I HAVE This Day Resumed my Duties as SECRETARY to the Company.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
D. GILLIES,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 3rd January, 1883. [42]

## For Sale.

F. BLACKHEAD & CO.

SHIPCHANDLERS, STORE-KEEPERS

AND  
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS,  
PRAYA CENTRAL.

HAVE RECEIVED EX LATEST ARRIVALS.

AMERICAN CAST STEEL SHOVELS.

PICKS. AXES. HATCHETS.

ENGINEERS' & HOUSEHOLD HAMMERS.

PATENT BIT-BRACES.

AUGER-BITS. DRILLS.

PATENT BRASS PADLOCKS & CHEST LOCKS.

Mrs. POTT'S PATENT SADRONS.

COOKING STOVES.

FAIRBANK'S SCALES.

FORCE PUMPS FOR SHIPS' USE.

DRILLING MACHINES.

BREAST DRILLS, AUTOM. BORING TOOLS.

ANVILS, VICES, AND DRILLS COMBINED.

ANVILS.

VICES.

HITCHCOCK'S PATENT LAMPS.

GLASSCUTTERS.

SCROLL SAWS.

FAMILY GRINDSTONES.

BLACKSMITHS' BELLOWES.

&c., &c., &c.

BEST WHITWORTH'S STOCK AND DIES.

SCREW WRENCHES.

PLANE IRONS.

CHISELS.

HAMMERS.

PINCERS.

NIPPERS.

DIVIDERS.

RULES.

METAL SCISSORS.

METAL SAWS.

TUBE EXPANDERS.

OIL-FEEDERS.

OIL-CANS.

SALTER'S SPRING BALANCE SCALES.

WESTON'S PATENT TACKLES.

PATENT SOCKETS.

## Intimations.

SAYLE & CO.'S SHOWROOMS.

SAYLE & CO.

ARE SHOWING.

EX. RECENT ARRIVALS.

TINSELLED GRENADINES.  
LADIES' CHEAP COSTUMES.  
BROCADED SILKS.  
MOIRE SILKS.  
COLOURED SATINS.  
PLUSH VELVETS.  
COLOURED FLANNELS.  
WHITE FLANNELS.  
DIAPERS AND IRISH LINENS.  
TORCHON LACES.

AN ENTIRELY NEW STOCK OF WHITE AND CREAM LACES.  
INFANTS' EMBROIDERED CLOAKS.  
INFANTS' SILK AND SATIN HATS.  
CHILDREN'S BOOTS AND SHOES IN EVERY SIZE.  
LADIES' WHITE SATIN SHOES.  
COLOURED MATESE BRAIDS.  
&c., &c., &c.

A LIBERAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

SAYLE & CO.

VICTORIA EXCHANGE, HONGKONG. [659]

Hongkong, 6th January, 1883.

W. BREWER.

PUBLIC CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

HAVING long felt the need of a PUBLIC CIRCULATING LIBRARY in Hongkong, I have determined, should a sufficient number Volunteer to Subscribe to it, to form a Library on the same basis as Circulating Libraries are formed in England, and from my Experience in such matters in England, I feel certain that I can form and conduct a Library satisfactorily to all. My Experience in the East Teaches me that the principal demand would be for LIGHT LITERATURE, and the Ordinary 3-Volume English Novels would therefore preponderate, at the same time Works of any Interest on Science, Biography and Travel would find their place on the Library Shelves.

THE SUBSCRIPTION WOULD BE \$15 PER ANNUM FOR A SINGLE SET OF BOOKS.

Willing Subscribers will kindly send in their Names as early as possible in order that some estimate might be formed of the probable success of the Scheme.

W. BREWER,  
QUEEN'S ROAD. [703]

Hongkong, 25th January, 1883.

"NOVELTY STORE."

MARINE HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD.

NOW SHOWING EX LATE ARRIVALS THE FOLLOWING NEW ARTICLES:—

Electric Repeater Call Bells. Parisian Coffee Making Machines of New Style. Morocco, Russia Leather and Polished Steel Cigarette Cases. Parisian Vases of Majolica and Fine China Ware in elegant designs. Olive, Walnut and Ebony Wood Photo Frames of Assorted designs. Small Fire Proof Cash Boxes in Shape of a Safe with Secret Lock Arrangement. Unframed Olegographs and Chromo Lithographs of Assorted designs and Sceneries. Ladies' and Gentlemen's Card Cases of Morocco and Russia Leather with small Ivory Memo Slate. Fancy Embossed Initial Note Paper, and Envelopes, any initial can be had. Fancy Japanese Stationery for Wedding and other Invitations. Endorsement Boxes and Endorsing Blue, Black and Red Inks. Ladies' and Gentlemen's Silk Umbrellas, Masks and Dominoes. Clothes, Tooth and Hair Brushes in Assorted Patterns. Ebony Handle Sliding Aluminium Gold Penholders. 'Hendries', Gosnell's, &c., Perfumery, Soap, &c. Havard Cigars of Assorted Brands. Il Flor del Mondo Cigarettes, Kaisari-Hind Cigarettes, Duchess Cigarettes, Empress Cigarettes, Princess Cigarettes. All made of pure and choicest Turkish Tobacco. BINOCULARS AND OPERA GLASSES OF BEST MAKE.

S. MEYERS,  
MANAGER. [28]

Hongkong, 24th January, 1883.

## To be Let.

TO LET,  
WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

FOUR LARGE ROOMS in Blue Buildings, Wanchai, (opposite the Long Pier) lately occupied by Mr. H. JOYCE.

Apply to  
H. H.  
Care of Messrs. SAYLE & Co.  
Hongkong, 29th January, 1883. [103]

### TO BE LET.

HOUSE No. 11, GAGE STREET.

Apply to  
J. A. DE CARVALHO.  
Hongkong, 22nd January, 1883. [78]

### TO LET.

NO. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.

No. 6, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, lately occupied by PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

No. 8, SEYMOUR TERRACE.

No. 9, SEYMOUR TERRACE.

No. 25A, PRAYA CENTRAL.

Apply to  
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.  
Hongkong, 17th January, 1883. [7]

### TO LET.

A TWO STOREY HOUSE (6 Rooms) in Mosque Junction. The above has Gas and Water laid on; and immediate possession can be had.

For Particulars apply to  
D. NOWROJEE,  
Hongkong Hotel. [18]

### TO LET.

TWO HOUSES ON HIGH STREET.

Apply to  
DE SOUZA & Co.,  
or  
ON THE PREMISES.  
Hongkong, 2nd January, 1883. [35]

### TO SPORTSMEN.

FOR SALE AT LESS THAN COST.

OWING TO OWNER LEAVING THE COLONY.

1 Silk-lined RACING SADDLE.

RACING WHIPS with Silver Mounts.

The above, which are ALL NEW, may be seen at the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" OFFICE and will be Sold at BARGAIN.

Hongkong, 2nd November, 1882. [12]

## Intimations.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED, ARE NOW PREPARED TO RECEIVE OFFERS FROM SUITABLE PERSONS FOR A FIVE OR TEN YEARS LEASE OF THE HONGKONG HOTEL, AND FURNITURE COMPLETE.

This well known HOTEL is situated in the Queen's Road, Hongkong, within a few yards of the principal landing place in the Colony.

It is a large and commodious building, replete with every modern improvement and convenience. It contains an ELEGANT AND SPACIOUS BAR, A LARGE BILLIARD ROOM, READING ROOM, A DINING HALL to accommodate 170 Persons, FIFTY TWO BED ROOMS, TWO CAPITAL BOWLING ALLEYS, together with all the other necessities of a well appointed Hotel.

It is the only First Class Hotel in the Colony, and is always patronised by a number of permanent boarders, consisting principally of Government Officials, Military and Naval Officers and their Families, &c.

It is at present under a Lease to Messrs. DORABJEE and HING-KEE, which lease expires on the 15th October, 1883.

Applications to be addressed to—  
THE CHAIRMAN,  
THE HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LIMITED,  
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 2nd January, 1883. [34]

F. D. GUEDES.

WINE MERCHANT AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT.

No. 5, D'AGUIAR STREET.

HAS always on hand a large assortment of CHOICE WINES of the best quality, at Moderate Prices.

Hongkong, 2nd October, 1882. [663]

HONGKONG TIMBER YARD, WANCHAI.

OREGON PINE SPARS AND LUMBER.

ALWAYS ON HAND.

L. MALLORY,  
Proprietor.

Hongkong, 24th June, 1881. [459]

## Amusements.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

THEATRE ROYAL,  
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

SECOND SUBSCRIPTION SERIES.

COMMENCING ON  
SATURDAY, 3rd February, 1883.

In deference to the wishes of a large body of Subscribers and the public generally the Directors beg to announce that the following Operas have been substituted for those previously advertised:—  
"FAUST" BY GOUNOD.  
"RUY BLAS" BY MARCHETTI.  
"IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA" BY ROSSINI.  
"TONE" BY PETRELLA.  
"SAFFO" BY PACINI.  
"CONTESSA D'AMALFI" BY PETRELLA.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES FOR 6 NIGHTS.

Dress Circle.....for 3 Seats.....\$35.00.  
Dress Circle....." 1 Seat.....\$15.00.  
Stalls....." 3 Seats.....\$25.00.  
Stalls....." 1 Seat.....\$10.00.

The Plan of the Theatre is now on view at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S, where Seats may be secured.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1883. [90]

## Intimations.

### NOTICE.

OFFICE OF THE SHANGHAI STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, IN LIQUIDATION.

SHANGHAI, 20th January, 1883.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at the Office of the Undersigned, on FRIDAY, the 2nd February, at TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

By Order,  
RUSSELL & Co.,  
Liquidators. [101]

### TENDERS.

TENDERS for LIFTING, and DOCKING for INSPECTION, the British Steamer "CARISBROOKE," now lying in Five Fathoms of Water at West Point, will be received at the Office of the Undersigned till NOON of the 31st instant.

The Captain and Agents do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

BUN HIN CHAN & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 29th January, 1883. [102]

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND of \$3 per SHARE, declared at the ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS held This Day, will be Payable at the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on and after MONDAY, the 29th instant. The Warrants will be sent to Shareholders by post early on MONDAY.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
LOUIS HAUSCHILD,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1883. [100]

HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND at the rate of 5 per cent. or \$3.75 per SHARE, declared at the ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS held This Day will be payable at the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on and after MONDAY, the 29th instant. SHAREHOLDERS are requested to apply at the Office of the Company for Warrants.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
P. M. COSTA,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, 26th January, 1882. [98]

### WANTED.

BY THE ADVERTISER

A SITUATION AS  
OFFICE ASSISTANT or STORE-KEEPER.

Address—  
M. E. G.  
Care of Hongkong Telegraph.

Hongkong, 13th December, 1882. [19]

### D. K. GRIFFITH.

MANUFACTURER OF THE LONDON AERATED WATERS.

7, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE,  
(Opposite the City Hall).

Having Purchased the entire Machinery of the late Mr. E. CHASTEL'S

SODA WATER FACTORY

is now prepared to execute the largest orders for every description of Aerated Waters with promptness and despatch.

SUPERIOR QUALITY

IS GUARANTEED.

Consumers are invited to try those carefully Manufactured

SPARKLING WATERS.

THREE DOZEN FOR ONE DOLLAR.

All Orders and Communications should be addressed to The Factory,

7, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1882. [225]

### C. L. THEVENIN.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT.

HAS FOR SALE.

## Shipping.

STEAMERS.

FOR SAIGON.

THE Steamship

"MADRAS," will be despatched for the above Port, on THURSDAY, the 1st February, at SIX O'CLOCK P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
All YON & Co.,  
80, Praya Central. [87]

Hongkong, 24th January, 1883.

FOR SAIGON.

THE Steamship

"YANGTSE" will be despatched for the above Port, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, the 4th February, at SIX O'CLOCK P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
All YON & Co.,  
80, Praya Central. [99]

Hongkong, 27th January, 1883.

UNION LINE.



## Intimations.

**A. S. WATSON & CO.**  
**INVITE INSPECTION OF A WELL**  
**SELECTED STOCK OF**  
**FANCY CHRISTMAS**  
**GOODS,**  
 COMPRISING—  
**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS**  
 IN GREAT VARIETY.  
**SWEETS AND CONFECTIONERY.**  
**FANCY SATIN COVERED BOXES.**  
**CUT GLASS TOILET BOTTLES.**  
**CHRISTMAS CARD ALBUMS.**  
**IVORY BACK HAIR BRUSHES**  
**SCIENTIFIC TOYS.**  
**ATKINSON'S, HENDRIE'S, AND LUBIN'S**  
**PERFUMES.**  
 &c., &c., &c.  
**A. S. WATSON & Co.,**  
**CHEMISTS, DRUGGISTS**  
**AND**  
**PERFUMERS.**  
**THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.**  
 ESTABLISHED 1841.

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph" and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.

While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the discussion of questions of public interest, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in that day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish The Hongkong Telegraph daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1883.

THERE are few places in the world that have been more frequently subjected to disastrous baptisms of fire than this island of Hongkong. During a certain season of the year fires occur with startling regularity, and in most cases under circumstances which are, to say the least, somewhat suspicious. The Chinese regard these periodical conflagrations without the slightest appearance of surprise, and even the European populace have become so accustomed to the sound of the fire bell, that it is generally listened to with the utmost coolness and indifference. But if fires on shore are so common as to be regarded almost as events of every day life, a conflagration in the harbour is a visitation of such an unusual character as to attract special attention.

About one o'clock on Saturday morning the fire alarm rang out with such startling distinctness that there was hurrying in hot haste amongst the members of the Government and Volunteer Fire Brigades. Presently, when guns were fired from the harbour in the direction of West Point and the sky became red with the ascending flames, it was quickly surmised that some vessel was on fire. This surmise unfortunately proved correct, the steamship *Caribbrooke* having by some means or other become a victim to the all conquering demon.

We have already published a full account of this disaster. It seems that the fire had taken a good hold of the vessel before the attention of Captain Scott and his officers was attracted to its presence. Everything possible is said to have been done throughout the night by those on board to quell the flames, but without avail, and it was eventually resolved to scuttle the steamer as a last resource. Towed from her moorings by the steam-tug *Fainto* to shallow water opposite the Salvo's Home, her bilges were opened and she quickly filled and sank in some three or four fathoms.

Fortunately no loss of life has to be deplored, the exertions of the water police under Inspector Craddock's superintendence, having been successful in safely removing close upon 600 passengers.

As the vessel could easily be raised the pecuniary loss, although a heavy one, will not be so great as was at first imagined. Captain Scott has lost most of his personal effects, and the cargo, which it is

stated was not of great value, is of course spoiled.

There are several features in this latest conflagration which merit special notice. It would appear from the evidence of the officers of the *Caribbrooke* that the fire originated in the quarters of the Chinese servants, which were situated amidships and directly under the captain's cabin, and it is surmised that the overturning of a lamp used for opium smoking was the immediate cause of the disaster. It is difficult to form any correct estimate as to how long the fire must have been smouldering before its presence became known; but it must have been a very considerable time, as there was nothing but the woodwork to take hold of, and it was not long after the alarm was given, at about a quarter past one, that the deck was burned through, the captain's cabin falling into the blazing hold, and thus destroying the whole of Captain Scott's valuable effects. It may be doubted whether this theory of opium smoking and the overturning of a lamp by the solitary occupant of these Chinese quarters, is sufficiently borne out by probabilities as to induce one to give it absolute credence; however, this surmise is doubtless as plausible as one as could have been suggested, and may possibly be the true version of the occurrence.

In a letter published in our columns yesterday, the Chief Engineer of the *Caribbrooke* claims that everything possible was done by the Captain and crew of the steamer to get the fire under immediately the alarm was given. Holes were cut in the deck and water was poured into the hold from buckets and the deck pump, but not, it seems, in sufficient quantities to have any appreciable effect. The engineers were meanwhile "lighting the donkey boiler fire to get the aid of the steam pumps with which the ship was provided." As the alarm was given at a quarter past one, and the vessel was not scuttled until about six o'clock it would be interesting to know if the steam pumps of the *Caribbrooke* were utilised during that time. The Chief Engineer tells us that the donkey boiler fires were lit to obtain the aid of the steam pumps, but, singularly enough, omits any reference as to whether these pumps were used or not. This point becomes rather important in the face of this officer's authoritative assertion that if the Government fire engine had arrived even as late as four o'clock—nearly three hours after the discovery of the fire—the ship could easily have been saved.

We are informed on the one hand that No. 3 Government steam fire engine was at the scene of action at a quarter past two; whilst the officers of the *Caribbrooke* plainly state that it was not there at all, and that only one or two firemen were present. The officers also assert that if the fire engine had been on the Praya, its assistance could easily have been made available, and the fire extinguished. As this is a very serious charge to make against a public department which carries heavy responsibilities, we trust that His Excellency the Administrator will see the necessity in the public interest of having a thoroughly searching inquiry made into the matter. It is also stated that with the exception of the crew of the steamship *Thales*, not one merchant vessel in harbour attempted to render the slightest assistance to the burning steamer. And further, that not a single man from Her Majesty's ships appeared on the scene until after the chief engineer and chief officer of the *Caribbrooke* went on board the *Andacious* between five and six o'clock to solicit assistance. If these assertions are true, and they have been made to us in apparent good faith by the officers of the *Caribbrooke*, such neglect is neither creditable to our mercantile marine, nor to our naval representatives.

Amidst all this so-called bungling and blundering it is cheerful to find that the members of our water police force rendered efficient aid to the steamer in its great need, and by their strenuous exertions and coolness succeeded in safely rescuing between five and six hundred Chinese passengers from a most dangerous position. The officers and men from the *Thales* are also reported to have done good service, and we consider it a duty to publicly call attention to the fact.

In conclusion, we trust that those who it may concern will deem it necessary to have the whole of the circumstances connected with this disaster thoroughly sifted. As there are so many different reports and rumours abroad, it would be interesting as well as instructive to have these conflicting statements carefully investigated.

Writing on Chinese Physicians, the San Francisco *Daily Alta* says:—One of our country exchanges, noticing the death of a well-known citizen, says it is the habit of people in the vicinity in which it is published, when they have received medical treatment of the ordinary practitioners and failed to obtain benefit, to call in the Chinese physician, who then "puts on the

finishing touches and sends them to the bourne whence no traveller returns." As deputy to the fool-killer, the Chinese doctor is probably a success; but except as a short and easy method of suicide, there is no visible reason why anybody should invoke his ministrations. This does not obliterate the fact that there are Chinese physicians in the State doing a large and profitable practice among the whites, some of whom are superstitious enough to prefer the quackery of barbarians to the skill of graduates from the schools of science. It is hardly too harsh to say that any person who puts himself in charge of a Chinese quack deserves his fate, and that when he dies he dies as the fool dieth. The best educated Chinese have no medical science worthy of the name. They are ignorant of anatomy, the only true basis of medicine, because they never dissect bodies, and the diagrams given in their books to display the arrangement of the internal organs betray a grossness of ignorance which would disgrace even a child in this country. They are utterly unskilled as surgeons, and by their practice of thrusting large needles into affected parts they frequently aggravate, simple ailments into serious or fatal ones. The occasional amputation of a finger is the limit of their skill, and the excision of a tumor is far beyond it. At the Christian missions in China natives suffering with cancerous complaints are treated in large numbers, because the Chinese physicians are unable to do it, and the same is the case with diseases of the eye, which are also very frequent in that country. Superstition being a large element of Chinese medical practice, they consider disease to be a possession by evil spirits, and pinch or pull the flesh on the back of the neck to expel the demon. Their medicines are compounded of filthy and disgusting mixtures, generally without the slightest efficacy, and are administered in great quantities, on the theory that out of them all there will probably be something which will act as a specific. If any of the Chinese in this country exhibit a higher grade of medical knowledge than this, they have borrowed it from Europeans, and not from their fellow-countrymen. In Hongkong and Shanghai there are medical schools established by Europeans, in which some of the native Chinese are educated and carry among their benighted countrymen a better knowledge of the laws of health than they before possessed or would ever gain by their own investigations.

## TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, January 29th.

## FRENCH POLITICS.

The President of the French Republic has summoned M. Ferry.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The British bark *Antoinette* undocked at Kowloon this morning, H.M.S. *Vigilant* taking the vacant dock.

A REGULAR Lodge of Zetland, No. 525, will be held on Friday evening the 22nd proximo at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely.

"God Save the Queen" is to be translated into sixteen languages for the use of Victoria's faithful subjects.—There is apparently no call for an Irish version.

The Italian Opera Company went over to Macao yesterday where they are to give three operatic representations in the theatre of the Club. These performances should prove a rare treat for the music loving community of the Holy City.

The semi-official *Tribune* of December, 21st, contains the following announcement:—"It is seriously contemplated to recall M. Tissot, our Ambassador in London. M. Tissot is said not to be in harmony with the Government as to the concessions to be obtained from England in the Egyptian Question."

A BOSTON editor bawled the cook, cuffed two children, left his wife in tears, and made a bee-line for the office, where he sat down in the editorial chair and wrote: "If you want to make the world brighter and better, begin by being kind and loving to those in the small circle of your own family, and from that as a centre work, go as you are permitted to go."

At a Regular Convocation of Victoria Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasons held last night the following officers were elected for the ensuing twelve months:—

M. E. ZIMMERMAN, Ex. Comp. W. M. B. ARTHUR, H. J. GORHAM, Ex. Comp. C. L. GORHAM, J. E. FRASER-SMITH, Ex. Comp. R. FRASER-SMITH, Scribe E. J. FRASER-SMITH, Comp. PAUL JORDAN, Scribe N. J. FRASER-SMITH, Comp. J. McWATERS, P. S. J. FRASER-SMITH, Ex. Comp. J. KEATING, Treasurer, Comp. F. W. HEUERMAN, Janitor, Comp. J. R. CRIMBLE.

COQUIN, the actor, doesn't believe that "the man who is his own lawyer has a fool for his client." He lately appeared at Court in Paris as his own advocate in the dispute between himself and M. Mayer. He argued his case with a skill that many members of the bar might have envied. But, as he warmed to his work, his dramatic spirit gained the mastery, and, by a too vigorous gesture, he split his coat open from top to bottom. So, instead of applauding the climax of his most telling period, the audience only laughed, and he laughed too.

New York City has hanged but 37 murderers in 44 years, and during the same time there must have been several thousand persons murdered in the metropolis. This is, says an American contemporary, a practical commentary on the efficiency of the laws.

SUICIDE and duels are carrying off so many officers of the Prussian army as to quite alarm the Government. There is too much fight bottled up, and Bismarck will have to look around to find some better vent for it than the self-destruction of his army.

THE Russians employ petroleum successfully upon some of their railways for driving locomotives, using for this purpose the crude naphtha as it comes from the wells. Most of the steamers that ply on the Caspian Sea use the liquid fuel, which is very much cheaper than coal.

SAYS the Philadelphia *Record*:—"Sometimes we think a highly-organized thief makes the best newspaper editor. Or are we the victims of delusion when we find in the columns of our esteemed contemporaries original productions which we were fortunate enough to be first to print and had fondly supposed to be our own?"

FRANCIS BARRICO, a seaman, who was yesterday found by P.C. 575 in that state which is so often described as "dead drunk," he being quite unable to walk, informed Mr. Woodhouse this morning that he was not very drunk, and was let off on paring with fifty cents. If being unable to walk through liquor does not bring one under the heading of "very drunk" we would like to know Mr. Barrico's idea of what does bring a man within the meaning of the term.

HO MUNG HIN, rent collector, for having in his possession prepared opium, and also for retailing the same without having a "permit" from the Opium Farmer, was fined \$50, with the option of three weeks' confinement. Ho Mung-Hin retired to the select retreat for the above mentioned period, and his opium and other implements employed in the illegal trade were handed over to the farmer as some slight solatium for the encroachment on his privileges.

LEONG AWING, coolie, while walking in Lascar Row last evening cast his evil eye on the upper toga of a cook who was quietly taking his jacket home from the laundry, the said jacket being under the culinary artist's arm. Quick as thought Leong Awing darted on the cook, seized the jacket (valued at forty cents) and was off at the rate of "133 for the three quarters." P. C. 648 happening to be in the way stopped the flying coolie in his mad career. On learning that the "bolter" was not running to acquaint the authorities that a fire had broken out, but was making off with stolen property, he carted his carcass to the Central Station, the jacket forming part of the cortege. Defendant said he did not steal the jacket, and for thus adding insult to injury by trying on such a "whopper" Mr. Woodhouse consigned him to six weeks' hard labor.

A WRITER in the *Queenslander* gives the following complimentary description of Sir Henry Parkes, the late Premier of New South Wales:—"When younger Sir Henry Parkes must have been an ugly man. Except the eyes, and perhaps a little contempt about the half-open lips there is nothing commendable in his face. His nose would not pass muster in a shearing shed. The common dam-sinker would not exchange forehead. Nor do his occasional movements as he glares upon the audience give any clue to the admiration which his life has won. As he thrusts a hand into the breast-pocket of his coat, or flings a glare into some region of obsequious howling, there is something in the motion suggestive of the bulldog. His movements would be best described as thrusts. It seems strange as he sits there, that unaided by the deference due to years, he has succeeded in laying such hold of the public mind." The press in Queensland would appear to be permitted far greater licence than is the case in this colony. Had we pulled a Hongkong politician to pieces in the above style, an intelligent jury would have decided that it was a gross libel, and a model judge would have provided us for the space of two months with free quarters at the expense of the government.

UNDER the heading "Our beauties across the Sea" an American contemporary goes ahead as follows:—"Secure in the flawless armor of her innate purity, the American girl touches pitch and is not defiled. Her large-eyed gaze comprehends all things unobscured. She fears nothing and shrinks from nothing. In much that an English girl would describe as modesty she detects a lack of sincerity and frankness; much that an English matron would commend as delicacy and ladylike feelings, she spurns as a want of proper spirit and independence. It is difficult to hit on any subject of conversation, even among those that are ordinarily reserved for the club or smoking room, which so far from discountenancing and discouraging, she is not able to approach independently by the light of her own reading or experience. And about all she says or does there is a largeness, a buoyancy, a freedom from restraint that freshens and exhilarates like a breeze from the sea. Men who, as a rule, can't 'get on' in ladies' society, are attracted to her and drawn out by her. Before she has long been admitted into a London drawing-room, even of the most exclusive order, she is certain to be the centre of an admiring and attentive group, comprising men of many different types. She is discovered to be well up in politics, and to have grasped all the bearings of the question about the Newfoundland fisheries. She knows the price of wheat on the other side; also of beef and mutton. The city man finds in her great joy, that she can supply the missing link which seems to have dropped out of the money article in the *Times* that morning. She can post the sportsman as to 'Maud S.'s' best record, and can give valuable information about a two-year-old in Keene's stable that is said to be a yearling in front of 'Foxhall' at the same age. She has seen all the newest plays, and read all the newest books—or reviews of them. And then she is delicious to look at."

It was reported in political circles at home when the last mail left that the Dutch Government intend to protest against the French claims on the Congo. Holland has far older rights in that quarter, having possessed factories for one hundred and fifty years on the coast of Loango. The interests of the Netherlands at the mouth of the Congo will be injured if France carries out the ideas of M. de Brazza. Holland may, therefore, be expected to join in the protest against the De Brazza Treaty being carried out. The Rotterdam Deputies intend to present a petition to the States General on the subject.

THE average Arkansas editor rarely fails to consult the intellectual tastes of his readers. The other day the *Slick Rock Muscle*, a weekly paper of well known ability and great political influence, contained the following: "Our wife, who has been our companion and assistant for years, died the day before yesterday, and we would give our numerous readers an interesting account of her life and public services, together with a neat obituary notice expressive of our grief, but as we have to condense and crowd in as much election news as possible this week, we must grapple business and dispense with pleasure until next week."

REFERRING to the case of the *Tangier* which has created a good deal of excitement in shipping circles in England, the Madrid correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs on December 21st as follows:—"The case of this vessel has been kept profoundly secret here, and no information on the subject can be obtained. I can state, however, that Captain Heath was on the morning of the 14th instant condemned at Carthage to two months' imprisonment for a supposed disobedience to the orders of the Port Captain. On the matter being represented at Madrid, the proceedings were at once quashed by telegraph, through the prompt and vigorous action of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Marquess Vega Armijo; and the *Tangiers* sailed the same evening with the Captain on board."

PRINCE KRAPOTKIN the head of the anarchists at Lyons has been arrested. The Paris correspondent of a London daily wires on the 21st ult.:—"The papers seized by the police a few days ago at the residence of Prince Krapotkin, at Thonon, proved, contrary to the statements made at the time, most compromising. The legal authorities at Lyons had no sooner examined them than orders were forwarded to Thonon to apprehend Prince Krapotkin. The arrest was made on Wednesday, the very day on which his brother-in-law, who was living with him, died. At first he requested that he might be left free till after the funeral of his relative, but having been informed that he would in any case be strictly watched, he withdrew his demand, and was taken without further delay to Annecy, and thence to Lyons. Prince Krapotkin is accused, first, of being a member of an association composed of Frenchmen and foreigners whose aim was the overthrow of the present state of society by means of assassination and pillage; secondly, of having been the chief instigator and organizer of that association in France, and especially of having come to Lyons to foment revolt in secret meetings. It is stated that Prince Krapotkin will be tried at Lyons in the first fortnight of January, with forty-five other anarchists previously arrested."

THE average value of property annually destroyed by fire ranges, according to the *St. James's Gazette*, from seventy to eighty millions sterling in Europe and North America, or three times the value of all ships and cargoes lost at sea. This statement will probably surprise many people, for there is such a general feeling of indifference on the subject of fire that nobody thinks it worth while to study the statistics bearing on it or learn the lesson they would teach. Little is done to prevent fires, or even to check their increasing ratio, although much trouble is taken to reduce risks at sea; so that, while the number of shipwrecks is diminishing, that of fires is increasing. The public have a vague idea that insurance companies are a safeguard. When people say that "the companies have lost heavily," they overlook the fact that all loss falls ultimately on the public, and that the expense of carrying on the companies has to be added to the loss by fire. If we take the principal countries and examine their fire returns, we find as follows:—United Kingdom: Premium to Companies, £6,900,000; assurance rate per £100, 4s. 6d.; loss, insured and uninsured, £9,100,000; loss per inhabitant, 5s. 2d.; France—£3,770,000, 2s., £3,200,000, 1s. 9d., respectively; Germany—£6,600,000, 4s. 2d., £6,200,000, 2s. 9d., respectively; Russia—£9,000,000, 9s. 8d., £21,000,000, 5s.; respectively; United States—£11,600,000, 18s., £23,000,000, 9s., respectively; Canada—£1,550,000, 1s. 2d., £4,000,000, 18s. 2d., respectively. Total Premium to Companies, £31,320,000; loss, insured and uninsured, £66,500,000. It has been said that insurance could be done better and cheaper by Government; but Bavaria, Saxony, and other countries of Germany have painful recollections of the losses to the Treasury when the Governments had a monopoly of insurance. We must make up our minds to do with the Insurance Companies, and to pay higher rates after each great fire, to recoup the underwriters; but we should do something at the same time against so formidable a danger, and so serious a loss of property. The annual losses in Great Britain are almost one per cent. of the national earnings—say three days' work of the whole population. It is certain that a large number of fires are the result of gross neglect, mostly on the part of individuals, but also of our municipal authorities. The London Corporation have for years turned a deaf ear to Captain Shaw's representations, and the richest City in the world grudges a few pounds for its own better protection. The consequence is that we have to pay two or three times heavier in another way. The property insured in London last year paid no less than 1,250,000l. in premiums. This is 13 times the sum annually allowed for the maintenance of Captain Shaw's Fire Brigade; and it is manifest that it is a very false economy to keep the Brigade allowances so low.

THE Director of Ceremonies of the Masonic Hall will feel obliged if the District Grand Stewards will be at the City Hall by 8.45 p.m. and the Knights Templar by 9 o'clock to-morrow night. The Stewards generally are asked to come as early as possible to assist in receiving the guests.

SAYS an American contemporary:—"An editor once owned three hundred thousand dollars worth of railroad stock, twenty-one thousand dollar Government bonds, six white shirts, a country residence on the Hudson, a farm in Illinois, a span of horses and a wagon, two suits of clothes and a plug hat. This fable teaches that all the liars are not dead yet."

It is necessary, says the *Lancet*, to raise a warning cry against a most mischievous statement which has recently been circulated, and has already done harm, to the effect that "arsenic in small doses is good for the complexion." It is not difficult to imagine the risks women will incur to preserve or improve their "good looks." No more ingenious device for recommending a drug can be hit upon than that which the authors of this most baneful prescription of "arsenic for the complexion" have adopted. Suffice it to recall the fact that for many years past chemists and sanitarians have been labouring to discover means of eliminating the arsenical salts from the colouring-matter of wall-papers and certain dyes once largely used for certain articles of clothing. It is most unfortunate that this hopelessly antagonistic recommendation of arsenic to improve the complexion should have found its way into print. Those who employ the drug as advised—and there are many either already using it or contemplating the rash act—will do so at their peril. So far as they are able, however, it will be the duty of medical men to warn the public against this pernicious practice, which is only too likely to be carried on secretly. It is not without reason that we speak thus pointedly, and urge practitioners to be on the *qui vive* in anomalous or obscure cases.

CHAN APO, and Leung Awong, coolies, employed at the Hung Ham Dock faced Mr. Woodhouse yesterday on a charge of stealing copper nails. From the evidence of Adam Hogg, head watchman at the Dock, the nails were concealed in the hats and clothes, outer and under, of the prisoners. The defendants admitted the charge and Leung Awong was served out with a month's hard labor, Chan Apo being put back for further consideration. On coming before His Worship this morning Chan Apo was reminded of the few following scrapes he has been in since the year of grace 1875. In August of 1875 for larceny from a dwelling-house, the interesting person now under review was treated to a couple of months' hard labor, and in December of the same year did another four days' penance for fighting. In January 1876 for collaring a couple of jackets from a dwelling house, Chan was rewarded with four months' "gruelling." In April 1877, as a rogue and vagabond, another month was given to this child of nature, followed in August by four months more. In the following January for annexing a pair of shoes, the late Mr. Charles May considered it "high time" to use harsher measures with Chan Apo than had hitherto been the case, and the result was that the Supreme Court gave him four years' penal servitude. Chan Apo, with several others, was granted a free pardon in 1880 by that benefactor of the mahogany skinned race, Sir John Pope Hennessy, and until November 1881 kept out of the clutches of the law, when a breach of the Markets Ordinance again brought him into trouble, a fine of \$1, with the option of four days, expiating the crime. With such a record against him it can hardly be wondered at if Mr. Woodhouse, after giving the guileless Chan a little fatherly advice, committed him for trial at the Supreme Court, although he was only detected with a half a pound or so of copper nails on his person.

A PORTSMOUTH contemporary has the following notes:—"The Commander-in-Chief on the China station has just forwarded to the Admiralty some correspondence on the subject of the alleged ill-treatment of Europeans and natives by one Daniel O'Keefe, of the Caroline Islands. It seems that Mr. O'Keefe is connected with the firm of O'Keefe and Co., traders in copra, and is the master of the schooner *Lilla*, which vessel was, some time since, plundered by the natives of the Pelow Islands. Whether Mr. O'Keefe's alleged ill-treatment was inflicted as a punishment does not appear, but the Commander-in-Chief on the Australian station has been directed by telegraph to send a ship to the Caroline Islands as soon as possible to investigate the matter. If I remember rightly, the *Comus* and *Lily* were, some time since, directed to proceed to the same islands to punish the natives for having plundered a schooner belonging to a firm with a similar Hibernian name. Another shot has just been fired at the Hydrographic Department by the master of the screw steamer *Yokohama*, which went aground on the Thales bank in Hoo-tan Bay, China, but this time it falls short of the target. The worthy mariner alluded to complains that his ship went ashore in consequence of the light now in course of erection on Dodd Island not being shown in his chart of 1881; but this is clearly a very lame excuse. I find that Hoo-tan is situated about twenty miles north-east of Amoy, for the entrance to which place he probably mistook the light in question, although I do not see how he could have done that had he paid proper attention; for there are two light-houses at the entrance to Amoy, while the light on Dodd Island has only been marked on the Admiralty chart during the present year. The appointment of Lieutenant H. C. A. Baynes to the *Excellent* for the purpose of qualifying for gunnery duties has been cancelled. He should have joined at the end of September, but was, I understand, detained at the China station, and was unable to join the College before the 20th ult., when the course of study was much advanced. Next year he will be too high on the seniority list to enable him to qualify for the usual year's study under these circumstances. The Admiralty have decided to allow him to remain at the College through the present session as a voluntary student."



We are informed by the agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.) that the steamship *Merionethshire* from London, left Singapore this morning for Hongkong.

CONVICT labor on the Government works was commenced this morning, about ninety of the choice specimens of humanity under Mr. Hayward's care being marched off to "graft" on the embankment adjoining the Government Civil Hospital. We have previously stated in no measured terms what we think of this backward move on the part of our present head of the Government, and we shall have a little more to say on the subject before many days are over. January the 30th, 1883, ought certainly to be cited thus on the comic almanacks—

"On the day which convicts are marched their labor on the Government Works, Hongkong."

AN old Spanish proverb expresses characteristically the high-bred courtliness which was once peculiar to the race; "The counsel of a woman is not worth much, but he who does not heed it is worth nothing." In Puttenham's "Art of English Poetry," a curious and interesting work published at the end of the sixteenth century, the author, speaking of the tender-heartedness of the female sex in general, alludes to the common proverb; "A woman will weep for pite to see a gosling goe bare-footed. There must have been a touch of real humor about the originator of this ancient proverb, ridiculing, but nevertheless loving, the prodigality of tenderness, which caused him such amusement. The preference generally given in the seventeenth century to the gray mares of Flanders over the coach horses of England gave rise to the vulgar proverb: "The gray mare is the better horse." George Herbert gave the world many proverbs which are descriptive of the lives and qualities of women. Among others we select the following: "Empty chambers make foolish maids," a proverb which, of course, like so many others, only expresses a half truth; for we are willing to believe that some wise little maidens have grown into womanhood like moorland blossoms, which only the grouse and the adder and the humble bee have looked on; but foolish is no doubt used there in its slighter significance of bashful, in which case the proverb is of course a true one. "A fair wife and a frontier castle breed quarrels" reads like the sigh of some baronial Benedict who fruitlessly thirsted after quietness in the weary ages of warfare. "Mills and wives ever want" was no doubt the miserly conclusion of some mediæval Harpagon; one can almost recognize the snap with which it was uttered, in the laconic brevity of the phrase— "Who lets his wife go to every feast and his horse drink at every water; shall neither have good wife nor good horse," to this day accords with the sentiments of many married men. "Choose a house and a wife to make," said some strong-minded gentleman, who flattered himself that he had moulded the character of the girl whom he had married; who very probably all the while had gained entire ascendancy over him in essentials by flattery his weak point of moulding her in non-essentials. For that is a way these dainty creatures have.

## SPORTING GOSSIP.

In answer to several correspondents I may state that it is my intention to go through the various races on the programme, giving full descriptions and particulars of the race ponies, and finally making selections, as has been my usual custom for the last half dozen years, in the course of a day or two. I have not the least intention of setting myself up as a sporting prophet, but knowing a little about race-ponies and racing generally, I can give a fairly accurate account of the shape, make, form, and past performances of most of the probable competitors, also of their present condition, the work they have done, and my own opinion as to their prospects in their several engagements. Then my readers can form their own conclusions quite independently of any vaticinations I may indulge in.

I am very glad that I made reference in my last "Gossip" to the reports that were being circulated about a trial, or series of trials having been got up by Messrs. Foochow and Tientsin to oblige a well known sporting celebrity "for a consideration," as the remarks I then made have elicited the actual facts of the case. I have good authority for stating that the trials actually took place under the superintendence of Tientsin and Foochow and in the presence of the coloured gentleman who has been openly accused of foul bribery; but as the whole business was carried out strictly in accordance with the orders of the owner of the ponies, (the colored gentleman referred to actually representing the owner and holding the watch on his account) the whole of the principal actors in the scene, namely Tientsin, Foochow, and Mr. Curcum, are entirely exonerated from all blame and responsibility. As the reputations of these three persons are presumably as precious to them as would be the case if "swells" instead of mafios and touts were concerned, it is only fair that their conduct should be set before a censorious public in its true character.

Authoritatively I am not acquainted with the results of the trials above referred to; but I understand that amongst other "pows" the dark grey Triumph made rings round the Derby course with full weights up in 3.29. It will be remembered that at the recent auction of race-ponies in training First Flight realised the very respectable sum of \$670, the purchasers being Messrs. John Peel and W. M. Morgan, whilst Triumph was secured by Mr. St. Vincent for \$770. If my information is correct, and I see no reason to doubt it, it is plainly evident that Mr. St. Vincent was "inspired."

The rain which has fallen during the past few days has once more made the course in splendid order. The training track is rather holding in the low-lying ground, but in the centre affords excellent going. Now is the time for owners to put in a lot of strong exercises. The weather appears dreadfully unsettled, and it may continue

so for several weeks, so that unless advantage is taken of the present favorable prospects for galloping, it is just on the cards that a continuous rain will transform the course into a dangerous quagmire. What are the odds against a rainy race-meeting?

There has been nothing of particular interest to report in the shape of training gossip these past two days. Messrs. St. Andrew's and Gordon's teams have been galloped at various distances, and I have noticed Castigator, Blunder Blas, Duggins, Silverstreak, Ambassador, Triumph and several others striding along.

The list of casualties is ever on the increase. The latest additions to the "screwed-up" division are Mr. Henry's promising griffin Rienz and Mr. Tasman's racing-like chestnut Zagzag. Mr. Kerfoot's Derby griffin Cobnut made his first appearance on the course this morning. He is a big sturdy pony, not particularly well shaped, and sadly deficient in quality. However, although my first impressions of this latest candidate for Derby honors are not particularly favorable, there can be no doubt that Cobnut has been tried both to stay and go fast, and in a moderate field (which the Derby has every prospect of being) might prove good enough to do the trick for Mr. Kerfoot and thus atone for the Filbert disappointment.

AN OLD SPORTSMAN.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1883.

## THE TONG KING QUESTION.

A letter from Hanoi in the *Temps* states that the Chinese troops had precipitately evacuated the country, in consequence, as was believed, of a formidable insurrection in their rear, in Kwang Si. The mountaineers there had cut to pieces, in a pass, a large Chinese detachment, and there had also been a general rising in Yunnan. The army which had entered Tong-King had consequently fallen back, in order to make good their retreat. There is no news of this, however, in our advices by the present mail. This letter is dated October 28th.

"On the 16th instant," says the *Temps*, "during the council held at the Elysée, the Minister of Marine communicated to his colleagues the text of the Bill which he wished to bring before the Chamber with a view to obtaining supplies for an expedition to Tong King. When he had read the document a discussion began, and the President of the Republic expressed himself unfavourable to its presentation. Several of the Ministers sided with M. Grévy, while others, on the contrary supported the Bill. At this moment Admiral Jauréguiberry, greatly irritated, threw the document into the fire before all his colleagues, declaring that he would resign. The President of the Republic did his best to persuade the Admiral to change his mind; and so far as we are aware, nothing has come of it all." However, if the matter has so far gone, there is reason to believe that Admiral Jauréguiberry will remain in office for some little time at least, possibly until the commencement of the next session of Parliament; that is to say, unless anything unforeseen should occur to alter his determination one way or the other.

It is now announced, however, that the Government are determined to present the Bill to the Chamber. In explaining how it is that the Cabinet has suddenly taken this resolve the *Temps* says:—"The Government has no choice in the matter. In cases like the present inaction entails consequences as serious as action, and a Government assumes as great responsibilities by doing nothing as by acting." The *Temps* goes on to explain that as French troops penetrated into the country the interests and honour of France are at stake. With regard to the treaty signed in 1874 this journal contends that it has been faithfully observed by France, but that the King of Annam has failed to perform his part of the contract. After a long statement of the numerous infractions of this Treaty the *Temps* proceeds to say that the question must not be trifled with. The security of the French colony in Cochinchina is to be insured. In conclusion it points out the immense commercial advantages to be derived by establishing the French protectorate on a firm footing. The Government should therefore not hesitate to send out a sufficient force to enforce the rights of France.

M. Blancsubé, Deputy for Cochinchina, has informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his intention to raise the question in the Chamber, but he day has as yet been fixed upon for the debate.

It is stated that M. Duclerc has informed M. Blancsubé that as soon as he shall be well enough to proceed to the Chamber he will accept his interpretation on the Tong King question. This interpretation, however, will, in all probability, have no *raison d'être*, as the Government now seems inclined to ask Parliament to vote the necessary supplies for the expedition before the close of the session.

It is stated that the latest despatches received from the Governor of Cochinchina confirm the news that the Chinese Army Corps has retired beyond the frontier. The *Temps* declares that this result has been attained by M. Bourée, the French Minister at Peking. The *France*, on the contrary, maintain that the withdrawal of the Chinese troops is only temporary, and that as soon as they shall have put down the revolt they will return to Tong King. "We certainly think," says the *National*, "that such a piece of good luck will not be thrown away, and that recent hesitations will not be renewed. Our prestige and our commercial future in Indo-China are at stake. The Cabinet that betrays the Colonial destinies of France will incur a serious responsibility. We can neither go back nor leave things as they are. We must advance, and the Chamber will not refuse the necessary supplies."

In a previous issue the same journal had said:—"There must be no delay. We must at once decide whether we wish to profit by our situation in Tong King or whether, breaking with our old traditions, we mean to retire before the troops of the Celestial Empire and to abandon the field to them." There must be no mincing of matters; the latter policy would be the deathblow to our prestige in the Far East."

The Ministerial *Telegraph*, in an article on the subject, says: "The news, which we were the first to publish a few days ago, of the postponement of the Tong King expedition is confirmed. It is probable that the Government will shortly make known its reasons for this decision. It is indispensable that public opinion should be reassured as to the fate of the brave men placed under the orders of Commandant Rivet, as well as the motives which compel the Government to abandon, at least for a time, the expedi-

dition to Tong King, which had been represented as particularly urgent."

A Havas Agency telegram from Toulon of December, 20, says:—"It is understood here that the Tong Expedition will shortly be determined upon by the Government, and the withdrawal of the Chinese troops under orders from Peking is confirmed. The Chinese Government has but one approach to the sea in those parts—viz., the Yellow River, which it cannot use, because of its being infested by pirates. It is disposed to act in concert with France to restore security in those regions. The French representative at the Court of Huế has been directed to express to the Emperor of Annam the friendly disposition of France; but also her firm resolve to enforce the Treaty of 1874, which establishes our protectorate over Annam."

The *Figaro* publishes an account of an interview between the Chinese Minister and a member of its editorial staff (M. Giffard). It recounts the Ambassador's view on the subject, while the Chinese Government greatly prized the maintenance of friendly relations with European Powers, the party of resistance might compel it to go to war with France on the question of Tonquin. China, added his Excellency, desired, 1, to maintain neutrality as regards the Annamite Empire; 2, to come to a previous understanding with France if the latter wished to establish herself in Tonquin; and 3, to participate in an effective protectorate of Tonquin if the French sought to do so.

The representative of the *Figaro* asked:—"If France were to despatch an expedition to Tong King, would the Emperor of China send an army to oppose us?" The Minister answered, "Not of his own will. My Government is a Liberal Government. It is very anxious to keep in friendly relations with all Europeans. But you cannot ignore in France that there is in China a numerous party, a party of resistance to all ideas of progress, that which you would call a party of *Chine ferme*, a party which rose against Russia not long ago, which forced the hand of the Emperor, and compelled him to fight against Alexander II. Russia, in the interest of all, made concessions. This party would once more come forward and compel the Government to march against you. For there are in that party fiery passions. Certain chiefs, jealous of old traditions, maintain that China ought to wage war against France, because, even in the event of being defeated, the country would acquire experience in the art of modern warfare."

The *Journal des Débats* published a long article by M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, advocating the expedition to Tong King. The article says:—"Are we going to delay any longer? If so, our position in Tong King will soon be compromised, and even Cochinchina will be threatened. For a good many years we have never moved in time. As for abandoning Tong King, we do not think that any sensible man dreams of such a thing. If we did so, it would doubtless be because we had adopted a new definition—namely, that France is a nation which everywhere draws back. All the dangers which are predicted on the side of China are simply absurd; the real danger lies in our irresolution. The affair of Tong King is pretty much the same as was the case with a twelve-month ago. We cannot allow difficulties to increase—they will become greater and more difficult to overcome. A solution is required, and there is but one solution possible. It is to render our protectorate efficacious, to despatch a sufficient corps of troops to destroy the black flag and to subjugate the mandarins. Are we to delay much longer? Then our situation in Tong King will soon be compromised, and Cochinchina will be threatened. For some years past we have never known how to act in time. As to abandoning Tong King, we believe there is no man of good sense who could dream of such a thing. If we were to do so it will be because we shall have adopted a new maxim signifying 'France is the nation which backs out from all enterprises.'"

Commenting on the situation, the Gambettist *Paris* expresses its satisfaction that the efforts of certain German papers to induce the Government of that country to take possession of Tong King should have been frustrated, as "the development of Cochinchina would be seriously compromised by the presence of Germany on China on the frontier of the proposed French colony." Referring to the proposed demonstration, the same journal observes:—"If the Cabinet applies to Parliament for a comparatively large sum of money it will be in order to render the demonstration thoroughly effective. Were we to limit the expedition to four men and a corporal the audacity of the 'black flag' and of the Chinese would only increase. We must therefore send a force calculated to overcome the Celestial Empire and its secret allies, the pirates. This is the best means of avoiding a sanguinary conflict."

## STORIES OF JUDGES.

Occasionally judges find themselves in conflict with members of the public who are under no professional privilege or restraint. Some maintain their dignity by fuming and committing for contempt of court. This course may, in some cases, be necessary, but a delicate ridicule is generally much more effective. A troublesome attorney, who was pleading his own cause, and raising untenable points before Lord Ellenborough became exasperated because he was invariably overruled, and exclaimed, "My Lord, my Lord, although your Lordship is so great a man now, I remember the time when I could have got your opinion for five shillings!" Such impertinence would, with many judges have led to the commitment of the offender; but Lord Ellenborough merely observed with an amused smile, "Sir, I dare say it was not worth the money?" The same judge was on one occasion sitting at the Guildhall, when Henry Hunt, the famous demagogue, appeared upon the floor of the Court. Mr. Justice Talford describes the scene which followed in these terms: "I am here, my Lord, on the part of the boy Dogood, a prominent the undaunted Quixote. His Lordship cast a moment's glance on the printed list, and quietly said, 'Mr. Hunt, I see no name of any boy Dogood in the list of cases, and I turned toward the door of the Court. 'My Lord,' vociferated the orator, 'am I to have no redress for an unfortunate youth? I thought your Lordship was sitting for the redress of injuries in a court of justice.' 'Oh, no, Mr. Hunt,' still calmly responded the judge; 'I am sitting as Nisi Prius, and I have no right to redress any injuries except those which may be brought before the jury and me in the causes appointed for trial.' 'My Lord,' then said Mr. Hunt, somewhat subdued by the unexpected answer of the judge, 'only justice to me, my Lord, and that all I ask of your Lordship.' 'Oh, by all means protest and go about your business.' So Mr. Hunt protested and went about his business, and my Lord went untroubled to his dinner, and both parties were content."

Great judges have always been the objects of intense respect and veneration to the English people, and few ordinary persons would venture to dispute without diffidence the law which they lay down. There is perhaps no more striking example of this than the proceedings of Sir Edward Leach, when he went in search of his daughter. He had lived for years on very bad terms with his wife, who, when he proposed to marry their

only daughter to Sir John Villiers, carried her off and concealed her at a house at Oatlands belonging to the Earl of Argyll. Coke, receiving information of this, collected a body of armed men and put himself at their head. Encased in a breast plate, with a sword at his side, and pistols at his saddle-bow, he arrived with his followers at the outer gate of the house, where he repeatedly demanded his daughter in the King's name, laying it down for law that it death should ensue if it would be justifiable homicide in him, but murder in those who opposed him. Such an opinion coming from so inspired a source was enough to cause the most resolute garrison to tremble, and the result was that Coke recovered his daughter without much difficulty.

Some judges cannot co-operate with juries. Baron Alderson was exceedingly impatient with a stupid jury, and often made his thoughts plainly known to them. A jury in a criminal case having returned a verdict which displeased him, he turned to the Sheriff, saying: "Good heavens, sir, can't I have another jury, and let these twelve persons go into the other court, where they can't do so much mischief?" To the disobedient jury he said: "Gentlemen, you will find in the other court, perhaps, in the course of the day, something which you can say." Then in an absent, musing manner, he saluted them: "No doubt, there are some men who never can comprehend what evidence is; but that twelve such men should come together to-day and let that man off! Prisoner, the jury have acquitted you. Heaven knows why! No one else in the court could have the slightest doubt of your guilt, which is of the grossest kind; but you are acquitted, and I can't help it."—*From the Wit and Wisdom on the Bench and Bar.*

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